

REMARKS

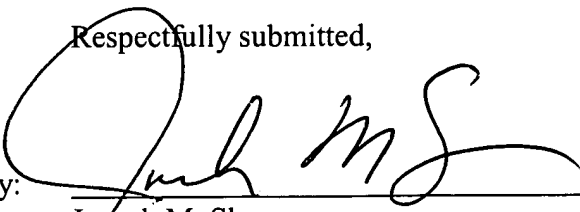
The first paragraph of the specification has been amended (i) to replace the section heading "Related Application" with "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.77(b) and M.P.E.P. § 608.01(a) and (ii) to include the priority history of the present application.

Claims 1-123 have been cancelled and newly added claims 124-129 are pending. These claims are directed to certain amino alcohol intermediates described in the application. In particular, support for the general formula for the amino alcohol can be found, *inter alia*, on page 15. Support for the recitation of P<sup>1</sup> and P<sup>2</sup> can be found, *inter alia*, on page 13, lines 16-19, (page 12, lines 6-9 describe amino protecting groups); support for the recitation of R<sup>2</sup> can be found, *inter alia*, on page, 4, lines 25-30 and page 6, lines 15-20; support for the halogen substitution on an aralkyl can be found, *inter alia*, on page 8, lines 8-14 (see aryl) and page 8, lines 15-18 (see aralkyl); support for fluorine as the halogen substituent can be found, *inter alia*, on page 11, lines 5-6; and support for the general and preferred recitations of R<sup>3</sup> can be found, *inter alia*, in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 and on page 6, lines 21-24, respectively.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits of pending claims 124-129 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
Joseph M. Skerpon  
Registration No. 29,864

Date: January 2, 2004

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.  
1001 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-824-3000